



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'



Upcoming dates

1st December

The start of Advent

3rd December

Pantomime

5th December

Year 3 sharing
assembly and parent
lunch

8th December

Year 3 and 4 Road
Safety show

16th December

Infants Nativity
Performance
9.30am and 6pm.

17th December

KS2 Carol Concert
2pm and 6pm

18th December

Christmas lunch &
Christmas Jumper
Day

19th December

Ends of Term -
school finishes at
2pm.

5th January 2026

Children Return to
School

6th January 2026

Epiphany Mass

A Time of Preparation

Dear Families,

As we move into the beautiful season of **Advent**, the whole school community is preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is a special time in the Church year—an invitation to pause, reflect, and wait with hope and joy. Over the coming weeks, the children will be learning about the meaning of Advent through prayer, Scripture, liturgy, and acts of kindness, helping them to understand this season not just as a countdown to Christmas, but as a time of spiritual preparation.

This week we will begin our Advent journey together. Each class will take part in Advent reflections and the school will gather for prayer around our Advent wreath. The children will be encouraged to think about how they can “make room” for Jesus—through kindness, patience, forgiveness, and helping others. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those children who are preparing to receive it, and to sharing Advent liturgies as a school family.

The excitement is definitely building! Rehearsals for our **Christmas shows and performances are now well underway**. The children are working incredibly hard learning lines, songs, and dances, and it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and confidence growing each day. These performances are always a highlight of our Advent season, and we can't wait to welcome you to enjoy them. More details about performance dates and arrangements will be shared very soon—thank you in advance for your support with costumes, practising at home, and encouraging the children as they prepare.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Advent is a precious season for our children to grow in faith and love, and we are grateful to share it with you. Let us continue to walk together in hope as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. With blessings,

Mrs. Sharkey

Autumn Term
18th November 2025

A Spotlight on Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful time on their recent visit to the Discover Centre in Stratford, where they stepped into the magical world of oral storytelling. Through lively workshops and interactive activities, the children learned that stories don't always need to be written down to be powerful — they can be shared through voice, expression, and imagination. They listened closely to traditional tales, explored how a storyteller uses tone and gesture to bring characters to life, and even had a go at retelling parts of a story themselves. The visit was full of excitement and curiosity, and it was lovely to see the children growing in confidence as they discovered new ways to share ideas and enjoy language together.



We retold stories using traditional and favourite characters. See if you can spot any of them here!

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Autumn Term
18th November 2025

Intentional Disciples

At St. Mary's we choose, with purpose and love, to follow Jesus every day — not just in name, but in the way we all live. We don't drift through faith on autopilot; we try to know Christ more deeply through prayer, Scripture and life in the Church, and we let that relationship shape our choices. As intentional disciples, we look for chances to grow in kindness, humility, forgiveness, and courage, and to serve others, especially those in need. An intentional disciple is a "yes" to Jesus that keeps being renewed in ordinary moments. This week some children from our (very popular) crochet club, spent some of their time in The Spinney Care Home where they crocheted alongside the residents. The children were a credit to both their families and the school and I was very proud to have them with me! We will be visiting again with other activities and this visit is the start of a community link which we are very keen to develop.



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